

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1875.]

[CONFIDENTIAL.

SELECTIONS

FROM THE

VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE PANJAB,

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES,

OUDH, AND CENTRAL PROVINCES,

Received up to 30th January, 1875.

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POLITICAL (DOMESTIC).

The *Almora Akhbar* of the 15th January notices the generosity of the Government in granting a pension of Rs. 2,000 a year to a Mr. J. C. Hall, of the survey department ; the person who, it is said, while in a state of insanity, fired upon several villagers.

The *Vakil-i-Hindustan* of the 20th January writes thus :— The generality of experienced men are of opinion, and we also agree with them, that under the present rule the evidence of witnesses quoted in the ruling of a case goes greatly to strengthen the ruling, as much confidence is then placed in it. Those who are acquainted with the rules of the British Government, know full well that it is a maxim in point of law that ten criminals should escape for want of proof rather than that one innocent man should suffer. From frequent experience it has been proved that, although in the opinion of a magistrate a man may be guilty, and stand even committed, yet want of proof has oftentimes set him free. We do not desire to oppose or offer any criticisms on the rules laid down by Government, but we would ask if such a thing as

true witnesses are to be found? Beyond doubt it has been proved that they are a rare commodity, and it is a matter of great regret that a point, on which the whole working of a case depends, should be so full of flaws. If any one requires proof of our assertion—viz., that false witnesses are more numerous than true ones,—it may be perhaps that we shall fail to prove it; for it is not likely that any man will admit himself to be in the wrong, or that his statement is not true. Is the obtaining of false witnesses an impossibility? Why you have only to give a sum of four annas and you will get as many to swear black is white as you please. We do not blame the Government for all this, but we complain against those officers who, to save themselves a little trouble as a rule, neglect to punish those who give false evidence.

The *Nur Afshan* of the 21st January has the following grievance which he is anxious to lay before the municipality of Ludhiana. It would seem that the city abounds with lepers who, whenever there is any number of people collected together, take care to mix in the crowd to the great disgust of the whole assemblage, and will not go away until they are paid to do so by donations in the shape of money and food which are readily given to the intruders to get rid of them. The writer expresses a hope that the committee will see fit to exclude these lepers from the city, and he also urges upon the committee the propriety of getting up a maintenance allowance for each leper from the local fund of Re. 1-8-0 per mensem.

The *Matla-i-Nur* of the 19th January, under the heading "Correction," contradicts a statement made at page 630 of the *Selections* from vernacular newspapers received up to 23rd December, 1874. The correction runs thus:—"In the case of the burial-ground, and other grounds near the masjid at Pilibhit, in which the writer affirmed that the Government had taken up the ground of the Jumma Masjid and converted it into a garden, and at the same time passed an order prohi-

biting its use as a burial-ground, there is an error ; the fact being that to improve the masjid trees have been planted to the west and south. This ground belongs to Government, and there is only one grave in it. The garden is not Government property but belongs to the people, and has been got up for their benefit, and a sum of Rs. 1,500 has been collected for the repairs of the masjid. We are quite sure that Government pays all due regard to the most trifling matters which concern our welfare, and that it does not approve of any oppression being exercised towards us ; and in the same way do all the authorities of every district take care not to go in opposition to the wishes of Government. Finally, we warn our correspondent to be more careful in future how he asserts things that are not true."

The *Agra Akhbar* of the 20th January brings to the notice of Government the state of disrepair into which the road from Jaunpur to Mirzapur has fallen, in the hope that it may be repaired.

The tax (or toll) at the *Nadi* is also said to fall hard upon travellers. The writer says that this subject has more than once been brought forward already, and no notice has been taken of it, or the discomfort removed ; nor can he, the writer, understand why the district officers do not bestir themselves in the matter.

This paper also gives the following from Danapur :—“ We have already written regarding the fact that several European soldiers have fired on some Musalmans ; the soldiers were for some time kept in arrest ; it has now transpired that these men have been let off with a fine of Rs. 10 each.” The editor adds,—“ Holy God ! has it come to this, that the blood of natives is counted as even more worthless than the blood of animals ? ”

The *Koh-i-Nur* of the 23rd January notices the recent theft perpetrated at Hissar at the house of an extra assistant com-

missioner, Munshi Thandi Ram, when property to the value of Rs. 500 was carried off.

The *Meerut Gazette* of the same date, under the heading "Opposition," quotes a para. from the *Oudh Akhbar* to the effect that Government contemplates the establishing of a paper in which will be published all articles the vernacular press may, from time to time, print. The editor says that the reason on the part of Government for publishing such things is best known to itself, but he cannot discover any advantage in it, nor is it likely that such articles as may appear in the vernacular newspapers, opposed to the interests of Government, can be fully contradicted: because many of the English newspapers in various places are given to writing against Government; and how can one paper on the part of Government be sufficient for the purpose of offering fair opposition to the many which appear against it in the different languages. Perhaps the Government desires to realize the same amount of profit which it has derived from the sale of stamp papers, and it is just possible that this movement on the part of Government will increase the sale of papers, and thus it will find this mode of doing business highly remunerative.

The *Punjabi Akhbar* of the same date, under the heading "Correction," publishes a letter dated the 10th January, addressed to the editor of this paper from the Mir Munshi, Khwaja Ghulam Ghaus, of the North-Western Provinces, relating to the article published at page 623 of the *Selections* from the papers received up to 16th December, 1874, concerning the cremation of the dead. Further than giving insertion to the letter of the Mir Munshi, there is no contradiction of the paragraph to which allusion is made.

The same paper furnishes the following account of a disturbance which was caused by the deceitfulness of the tahsildar of Khushab in the Shahpur district:—"Some days ago a Hindu tahsildar was appointed to this place. Near the house of this tahsildar is a masjid, and whenever the tahsildar went

to perform his ceremony of daily worship, the Musalmans of the place took the opportunity of calling to prayers. This it seems was not intentionally done, or to cause annoyance, but the tahsildar was informed that it was so, and an order was passed by him prohibiting the mulla from calling to prayers at the Muhammadan masjid. A general complaint was made, and the whole thing was laid before the deputy commissioner, who passed orders that he would go next day to the place and make inquiries into it. When he appeared the whole of the Muhammadans in a body greeted him with loud cries for redress. He enquired the cause of the gathering, and the tahsildar replied that the Muhammadans were ripe for a disturbance, and would kill him together with the tahsildar. He then turned back towards his house and the sipahis set upon the crowd and belaboured them well with clubs. Orders were then passed to the superintendent of police to present himself with a police force, and accordingly a party of 200 or more of the police went to the place, and took down the names of those disturbers of the peace. The tahsildar gave the names of 93 persons—all of whom were his enemies. A warrant was issued and each offender fined Rs. 50, with one month's imprisonment failing to pay the fine inflicted. One man, the lumberdar, who was quite able and willing to pay a fine of even Rs. 5,000, was taken with the others and imprisoned."

The editor remarks ironically that this is the result of the deputy commissioner's view of the case. The commissioner, it is said, went a degree beyond this, and when the party went to him with their petition at a place called Sakesar, he ordered them to be given over in charge, and at night ordered them to quit the place on pain of further punishment, so that these unfortunates have failed to obtain redress in either quarter.

The *Atalik-i-Hind* of the 25th January brings to notice the resolution of the municipal committee at Ajmere to

exclude all butchers' shops from the city. The Musalmans of the place are greatly dissatisfied at this proceeding, the more so as the originators of this order are those who have a dislike to meat. The order is a novel one, and it would be but right if the committee were to withdraw it.

The *Saiyid-ul-Akhbar* of the 20th January has a complaint of the insulting way in which the chungi peons behave to respectable Hindustanis, and the force and oppression they exercise towards female travellers by carriages in the city of Delhi. These peons are said to be overbearing in their address and manner, and the writer would fain enquire of the members of the municipality, and the authorities of Delhi, how it is that something is not done to prevent this annoyance, which is so keenly felt by the respectable classes and endured by them in silence. The writer finally suggests that the Government should entertain editors of the native papers as members of the municipality, in which case he is sure that the work would meet with much more success and justice, and be more evenly and satisfactorily performed than it is at present by the citizens of the place. In conclusion he asks—what is the reason that native editors should be admitted into the darbars of the Lieutenant-Governor, and yet not be considered worthy of a place in the municipal committee?

The *Hindu Prakash* of the 23rd January expresses his inability to see the fairness of the order passed by the Collector of Saharanpur, which prevents native carriages from going from Saharanpur to Hardwar. The editor is of opinion that as the establishment of roads is for the advantage of the public generally, and not got up for any special purpose, or particular people, he cannot think that the collector ought to adhere to this resolution of closing this one to the public, and ventures to hope that the orders will be at once rescinded.

The *Mayo Memorial Gazette* of the 25th January denies the assertion published in the *Indian Public Opinion* of the

28th November, 1874, concerning the exclusion from the court of deputy commissioner, of all *vakils*, and newswriters. The editor remarks that he quotes the above paper (*Indian Public Opinion*), because the order is said to have first appeared in that journal.

The *Akhbar-i-Am* of the 27th January records a murder at a place called Bhairah in the Shahpur district. The victim, a lad about ten years of age, having been murdered for the sake of his ornaments valued at about Rs. 20 or 22. The boy's father is said to have given a clue to the foul deed, by relating a dream he had in which the boy is said to have appeared to him, and made known the circumstances attending his death; the result being that the house of one Kripa Ram was searched and the body of deceased exhumed and identified; and it subsequently turned out that two years ago, at the same place, a girl was murdered for the sake of her ornaments valued at Rs. 170.

This is the second time the same man has been arrested on the same charge of murder.

The *Oudh Akhbar* of the 26th January comments on the English press generally, and remarks that now-a-days it appears to have gone quite contrary to its usual custom of crying down the Hindustanis, and mercifully takes up the cudgels in their cause. The article is called forth by some papers having recommended that natives should be appointed extra assistant commissioners as their rightful claim. The editor of this paper quite agrees with the English press, and adds that it is only right and proper that the higher appointments in the police should be held by natiyes who have proved themselves useful in that department, many having been wounded in affrays, &c. The writer concludes by giving it as his opinion that Government ought to recognize the claims of such men.

#### POLITICAL (FOREIGN).

The *Marwar Gazette* of the 18th January publishes the letter of some traveller proceeding from Jodhpur to Jaipur,

which complains loudly of the disturbed state of the country in those parts. The writer instances the plunder of three bullock carriages, camels, &c., and notices the cruelty exercised over half-starved horses used in the mail-cart at Ajmere, as well as the overloading of the carts. The writer says that he was himself one of 11 persons who travelled by this conveyance, in addition to the luggage each person had with him. The merciless conduct of the driver is said to need notice, and in conclusion a fear is expressed that the unfortunate horses will not be able to survive until the railway, then nearly completed, is open.

The *Akhbar-i-Alam* of the 21st January, alluding to the great poisoning case at Baroda, and the disposal of the Maharaja Malhar Rao, considers this a case of great importance. "Sir J. Lawrence's rule," he says, "was marked by similar action in the case of the Nawab of Tonk; and that was considered one of the great events of the times, but the disposal of Malhar Rao is one of even greater importance. This action of Lord Northbrook's will prove one of the grand features of his rule, and as the subjects of Malhar Rao were dissatisfied with him, and as there existed a misunderstanding between Colonel Phayre and Malhar Rao, it would be as well to institute full enquiry into the case, for it would not be fair to depose the chief without proving his guilt. Cannot it be possible that evidence may be suborned in this case to condemn him?"

The *Punjabi Akhbar* of the 23rd January publishes the following as news from Jaipur :—" Munshi Nawal Kishore, proprietor of the *Oudh Akhbar*, paid this place a visit, and passed a day at Jaipur. The Maharaja made him a present of a pearl necklace, a pair of gold bangles, and a shawl, and Rs. 1,000 in cash at parting."

The *Khurshid-i-Jahantab* of the 15th January, under the heading "Indaur," offers some remarks on the large profits

derived from the sale of opium in the country of Maharaja Hulkar, which, it is said, amounts to sixteen lakhs of rupees annually.

The same paper writing from Alwar alludes to the determination of the Thakur Laghudhir Singh to appeal his case of claim to the succession of the throne of Alwar, to the Home Government in England.

The *Patiala Akhbar* of the 25th January draws attention to the idle and profligate life the Nawab of Tonk is now leading. He is said to pass his time entirely in the *zanana*, going about from place to place with it, causing much inconvenience by his large camp establishment, blocking up roads, &c.

The *Oudh Akhbar* of the 26th January mentions a report as being current at Puna to the effect that Colonel Phayre was very ill. "At Baroda his life was attempted 27 times, but he escaped each time, and the hope is that he will now recover. The editor remarks that this will be an occasion for great rejoicing for Malhar Rao, as he still bears enmity towards Colonel Phayre."

#### COMMERCIAL.

##### (Railways.)

The *Akhbar-i-Am* of the 20th January brings to notice the conduct of a police constable and a cooly on the Scinde Panjab and Delhi Railway. These men are reported to have extracted a quantity of molasses from a canvas-bag belonging to a merchant; the policeman confessed.

Again, a short time ago, a gentleman lost his bag containing some currency notes to the value of Rs. 500. This bag is said to have been discovered in the house of a Munshi on the same line, and the case is under investigation.

The *Saiyid-ul-Akhbar* of the same date draws attention to the over-crowded state of the railway carriages on the Panjab line. The writer also complains of general mismanagement

regarding the allotment of seats, and the insults and jeers consequent thereon respectable native females are subjected to. The apathy of the police is also much condemned, and their utter disregard to what goes on in the way of trouble and annoyance to travellers. A reform is asked for.

#### EDUCATIONAL.

The *Patiala Akhbar* of the 18th January extracts from the *Atalik-i-Hind* the opinions Lord Northbrook is said to have given vent to at the distribution of prizes at one of the schools. "The arrangements for educating the Europeans and Eurasians of Hindustan rests with themselves. It cannot be done by the Government or from the revenues of the country. It is also necessary to teach the profession of arts and sciences to all; but for the acquirement of the first grade of education," he adds, "let the English nation open their own purse-strings, otherwise let them avail themselves of those schools which have been established for natives." The editor remarks that the Governor-General appears to be a man possessed of great sense of justice; that there is no doubt that the English are the conquerors of the land, but that it does not follow that they should expend our own money for their own benefits. "Education and reform have gained such a pre-eminence under British rule that we can never forget or cease to be grateful for them."

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

The *Akhbar-i-Am* of the 20th January notices the fact of some Khaibaris at Peshawar having carried off the wife of a wealthy merchant from a fair, and refusing to restore her until a ransom is paid.

The *Akhbar-i-Alam* of the 21st January, referring to the Pioneer's statement that the king of Persia has given his sanction to the Russians for the construction of a line of railway from Tabrez to Koh-i-Kaf, thinks it pretty evident that the English have a desire that the people of their country should become slow and indolent, and he hints that ere long

there will be found in England much discussion between the opinions people hold, and it is chiefly on account of this difference of opinion that the English nation does not interfere with Russian affairs. "The policy of Government in connection with foreign affairs may be compared to a flock of sheep, which one can lead by the ears where one pleases ; and it is not strange that the people of these times regret the good old days and the good acts of those who have left such good names behind them. But to reproach the foreign office, as the public are doing, is quite unreasonable. It is only fair and reasonable for the English nation to use their best endeavours to increase the name and glory of their own country. As an instance we may mention the case of America, to whom England paid a large fine, of which repeated mention has been made, but the English do not appear to see or feel the disgrace their folly has brought on them, for they were even powerless to withhold the fine thus inflicted. Finally we think it unbecoming in the English nation to even speak of Russian affairs, when they can do nothing themselves."

The following Vernacular newspapers have been examined in this report :-

( 56 )

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Language.	Locality.	When Published.	Date of Receipt.	
					1875.	1875.
1	Almora Akhbar,	Urdu and Hindi,	Almora,	Bi-monthly, ...	Jany. 15th	Jany. 22nd
2	Vritti Dhara,	Marathi,	Dhar,	Weekly, ...	" 18th	" "
3	Vakil-i-Hindustan,	Urdu,	Amaritsar,	Ditto,	20th	22nd
4	Muir Gazette,	Ditto,	Meerut,	Ditto,	20th	22nd
5	Nur Afshan,	Ditto,	Ludhiana,	Ditto,	21st	22nd
6	Strachey Gazette,	Ditto,	Moradabad,	Ditto,	5th	23rd
7	Vidya Vilas,	Ditto,	Jammu,	Ditto,	11th	23rd
8	Asar-ul-Amsar,	Ditto,	Lucknow,	Ditto,	14th	23rd
9	Bohilkhand Akhbar,	Ditto,	Moradabad,	Bi-weekly, ...	16th	23rd
10	Patiala Akhbar,	Ditto,	Patiala,	Weekly, ...	18th	23rd
11	Sadik-ul-Akhbar,	Ditto,	Bhawalpur,	Ditto,	18th	23rd
12	Maita-i-Nur,	Ditto,	Cawnporo,	Ditto,	19th	23rd
13	Naf-ul-Azin,	Arabic,	Lahore,	Ditto,	19th	23rd
14	Akhbar-i-Am,	Urdu,	Jaunpur,	Ditto,	20th	23rd
15	Lam-i-Nur,	Ditto,	Gwalior,	Ditto,	17th	23rd
16	Gwalior Gazette,	Urdu and Hindi,	Jodhpur,	Ditto,	17th	25th
17	Marwari Gazette,	Ditto,	Delhi,	Ditto,	18th	25th
18	Nasir-ul-Akhbar,	Urdu,	Ditto,	Ditto,	19th	25th
19	Nasir-ul-Islam,	Ditto,	Ditto,	Ditto,	19th	25th
20	Agra Akhbar,	Hindi,	Agra,	Tri-monthly, ...	20th	25th
21	Anvar-ul-Akhbar,	Ditto,	Lucknow,	Weekly, ...	20th	25th
22	Benares Akhbar,	Hindi,	Benares,	Ditto,	21st	25th
23	Akhbar-i-Alam,	Urdu,	Meerut,	Ditto,	22nd	25th
24	Akhbar-i-Anjuman-i-Panjah,	Ditto,	Lahore,	Bi-weekly, ...	22nd	25th
25	Oudh Akhbar,	Urdu and English,	Lucknow,	Weekly, ...	23rd	25th
26	Aligarh Institute Gazette,	Urdu,	Aligarh,	Ditto,	23rd	25th
27	Urdu Delhi Gazette,	Ditto,	Agra,	Ditto,	23rd	25th
28	Nur-ul-Anwar,	Ditto,	Cawnporo,	Ditto,	23rd	25th



No.	Names of Newspapers.	Language.	Locality.	When Published.	Date.	Date of Receipt.
63	<i>Akhbar-i-Anjuman-i-Hind</i> ,	Urdu,	Lucknow,	1875.	Jany. 23rd	1876. 39th
64	<i>Rohilkhand Akhbar</i> , ...	Ditto,	Moradabad, ...	"	" 23rd	" 29th
65	<i>Tahzib-ul-Akhlaq</i> , ...	Ditto,	Aligarh, ...	"	" 24th	" 29th
66	<i>Mayo Memorial Gazette</i> ,	Ditto,	Delhi, ...	"	" 25th	" 29th
67	<i>Sadik-ul-Akhbar</i> , ...	Ditto,	Bhawalpur, ...	"	" 25th	" 29th
68	<i>Vritt Dhara</i> , ...	Ditto,	Dhar, ...	"	" 25th	" 29th
69	<i>Nasul-Azim</i> , ...	Marathi,	Lahore, ...	Ditto,	" 26th	" 29th
70	<i>Maita-i-Nur</i> ,	Arabic,	Cawnpore, ...	Ditto,	" 26th	" 29th
71	<i>Vakil-i-Hindustan</i> ,	Urdu,	Amritsar, ...	Ditto,	" 27th	" 29th
72	<i>Nur Afshan</i> ,	Ditto,	Ludhiana, ...	Ditto,	" 28th	" 29th
73	<i>Nasim-i-Jaunpur</i> ,	Ditto,	Jampur, ...	Ditto,	" 26th	" 30th
74	<i>Akhbar-i-Am</i> ,	Ditto,	Lahore, ...	Ditto,	" 27th	" 30th
75	<i>Khair Khwah-i-Oudh</i> ,	Ditto,	Lucknow, ...	Bi-monthly,	" 28th	" 30th
76	<i>Akhbar-i-Alam</i> , ...	Ditto,	Meerut, ...	Weekly,	" 29th	" 30th
77	<i>Aligarh Institute Gazette</i> ,	Urdu and English,	Aligarh, ...	Ditto,	" 30th	" 30th
78	<i>Meerut Gazette</i> , ...	Urdu,	Meerut, ...	Ditto,	"	"

DILHI :  
The 3rd February, 1875. }

GEORGE WAGENTREIBER,  
Govt. Reporter on the Vernacular Press of Upper India.